



**Homeland  
Security**

December 19, 2005

# News Release

## **MORE THAN 350 CARGO TRUCKS DESTINED FOR COMMERCIAL PASSENGER PLANES INSPECTED BY ICE, CBP AND PARTNER FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES IN CARGO OPERATION**

*-Among the arrested was a commercial truck driver who was driving an eighteen-wheeler drunk-*

MIAMI- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced today that a two-day multi-agency law enforcement operation conducted by the Cargo Security Task Force at Miami International Airport (MIA) targeting cargo destined for domestic and international passenger planes culminated Thursday evening. The inspection of more than 350 cargo trucks and four commercial airline warehouses yielded numerous arrests, violations and fines.

The inspections led to the arrest of a commercial truck driver that resisted arrest when officers discovered that he was driving his eighteen-wheeler under the influence of alcohol (DUI). Three additional criminal arrests were made for various driving violations.

Four violations of improperly packaged materials were discovered. Among the most alarming items discovered were radioactive materials. A fuel truck was taken out of service and removed from the airport for having a severely dangerous fire prevention system.

Fifty-two fines totaling approximately \$17,500 were levied for safety and licensing violations and 19 commercial trucking vehicles were taken out of service. Three individuals were found in violation of immigration law.

“The results of this multi-agency effort speak volumes to the collaborative spirit in the law enforcement community here in South Florida to ensure the safety and security of our citizens,” said Jesus Torres, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Miami. “Those who are in the business of cargo transportation need to know that they will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law for violations related to passenger planes. There is no room for error when people’s lives are at stake.”

“Those who think that they can circumvent our security standards should think twice,” said Thomas S. Winkowski, director of field operations for CBP in Miami. “CBP will continue working with its DHS partners, as well as state and local law enforcement, in our mission to protect our nation.”

The operation was carried out by the Cargo Security Task Force whose primary mission is to identify and neutralize potential public and national security threats relating to cargo transported on passenger planes. This operation was the result of a collaborative effort between, ICE, CBP, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD); the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE); the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP); the Florida Transportation Security Administration Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Enforcement; the (TSA); the Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of Inspector General; the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Hazardous Materials Field Unit; the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida, and the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office.

Mr. Torres and Mr. Winkowski praised the efforts of all participating agencies.

# DHS #